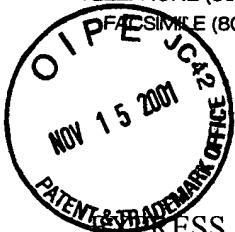


WORKMAN NYDEGER & SEELEY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
1000 EAGLE GATE TOWER
60 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111
TELEPHONE (801) 533-9800
FACSIMILE (801) 328-1707



RICK D. NYDEGGER
DAVID O. SEELEY
BRENT P. LORIMER
THOMAS R. VUKSINICK
LARRY R. LAYCOCK
JONATHAN W. RICHARDS
DAVID R. WRIGHT
JOHN C. STRINGHAM
JOHN M. GUYNN
CHARLES L. ROBERTS
GREGORY M. TAYLOR
DANA L. TANGREN
ERIC L. MASCHOFF
CHARLES J. VEVERKA
ROBYN L. PHILLIPS
RICHARD C. GILMORE†
DAVID B. DELLENBACH
KEVIN K. JOHANSON
R. BURNS ISRAELSEN
DAVID R. TODD

L. DAVID GRIFFIN
FRASER D. ROY
CARL T. REED
JESÚS JUANOS I TIMONEDA, PH.D.
R. PARRISH FREEMAN, JR.
PETER F. MALEN, JR.
ADRIAN J. LEE
L. REX SEARS, PH.D.
ERIC M. KAMERATH
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WILLIAM R. RICHTER*
TRENT H. BAKER

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MAILING ADDRESS:
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SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84145

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PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No.: 13768.67.16.2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is an Information Disclosure Statement.

Enclosed also are the following designated documents, as required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98:

- Form PTO-1449 list of 19 references submitted for consideration.
- Legible copies of the listed references or their relevant portions.
- All English translations of each nonenglish reference, if any, within the possession, custody, control or availability of anyone designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c)).

The following are included within the Information Disclosure Statement if applicable and as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

- Concise explanation of relevance of each reference not in English and unaccompanied by an English translation.

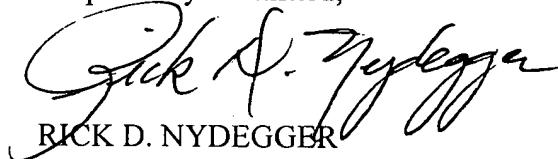
- Statement that certain listed references not enclosed are substantially cumulative of an enclosed reference.
- Statement that certain listed references not enclosed were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the identified prior application which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

In order to secure consideration of the items designated above, one or more of the following, if required, is also enclosed:

- Promptness Certification.
- Check No. _____ in the amount of \$240.00 constituting submission fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p);
- Petition for Consideration and Check No. _____ in the amount of \$_____.
- In the event that 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) applies and the Examiner is not satisfied that the Promptness Certification meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or in any other event remediable by a fee, please credit any over payment or charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3178 of the undersigned.

Dated this 15 day of Nov., 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



RICK D. NYDEGGER
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 28,651



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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